

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 MCT-01 /075 W

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 113

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERR

USNMR SHAPD BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDONSENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

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RUFMBAXCTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES CT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 25-27

REF: BEIRUT 7650

1. SUMMARY. JUNBLATT MEETS SARKIS AT NATIONAL MUSEUM BUT
AJAFAT STAYS AWAYHDUE FIRING IN AREA. JUNBLJTT LEAVES FOR
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CAIRO DISCUSSIONS. POSSIBLE CHOPCE FOR PM DISCUSSED AMID

SPECULATION CABINET MAY BE FORMZD BY OCT 5. PIERRE GEMAYEL CALLS AGAIN FOR "STRIKE XORCE" AND EXPRESSES HOPE FRENCH WILL PARTICIPATE. LEBANESE ARMY UNDER HANNA SAIDN NOW IN CHARGE OF CHRISTIAN SIDE OF MUSEUM CROSSPOINT. ABU IYAD CRITICIZES SOVIET UNION FOR BEING "SLOW TO MOVE" ON LEBANESE CRISIS. GROUND SITUATION RELATIVELY CALM WITH SOME SHELLING IN NORTH, IN MOUNTAINS AND IN BEIRUT SUBURBS. PALESTINIANS WORRIED ABOUT INCREASING SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN PRESSURE ON THEIR SOUTHERN POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. SARKIS CONTACTS. SARKIS HELD TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR CONFERENCE AT NATIONAL MUSEUM SEP 26 WITH JUNBLATT, ACCOMPANIED BY FEW G-2, LAA CAPTAIN AHMED ADDAM. HASSAN SABRI KHOLI AND FATHER YOUAKIM MOBARAK ALSO PRESENT. JUNBLATT DESCRIBED MEETING ASHCONTAINING "NECESSARY REALISM," BUT INDICATED HA STUCK TO HIS POSITION OF NO RETREAT FROM MOUNTAINS WITHGUT SYRIAN PULLBACK BEFORE START OF NEGOTIATIONS. NEW CABINET APPARENTLY NOTH DISCUSSED. DESPCTE ELABORATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS JUNBLATT GROUP FIRED ON FOLLOWING MEETING IN WHAT AN NAHAR DESCRIBED AS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT BY DISGRUNTLED INDIVIDUAL. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAYS ATTACK WAS WORK OF ISOLATED CHRISTIANS AND/OR MUSLIMS WHO WISHED HINDER SARKISXARAFAT MEETING PLANNED LATER IN DAY. ON ADVICE HIS SECURITY AIDES, ARUFAT POSTPONED MEETING, PERHAPS TO SEP 27. SJRKIS MET BESHIR GEMAYEL, DANY CHAMOUN, ABU ARZ AND GEORGE UDWAN (OF MARONITE LEAGUE) WHO ALL AGREED, ACCORDING TO AS SAFIR, TO RESPECT NEUTRALITY OF MUSEUM AREW. AN NAHAR SAYS HASAN SABRI KHOLI SETTING UP SARKIS/ SALAM MEETING AND SALAM INDICATED HE WOULD MEET WITH NATIONAL UNION FRONT SEP 27 AND SUPREME ISLAMIC COUNCIL SEP 28 BEFORE SEEING SARKIS. SARKCS SCHEDULED MEET CHAMOUN AND PARLIAMENT SPEAKER ASSAD SEP 27 AT BAABDA. SARKIS APPARENTLY WILL USE BOTH BAABDA PALACE ANJ MUSEUM FOR OFFICIAL BKSINESS.

3. JUNBLATT TRAVELS AS PALESTINIANS PURSUE SOFE LINE. JUNBLATT LEFH SEP 27 VIA EGYPTIAN SHIP FOG DUSCUSSIONS WITH SADAT IN CAIRO. ACCOMPANIED BY PROGRESSIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBER MOHSEN DALLOUL AND UM CENTRAL POLITICAL COUNCL MEMBER ALBERT MANSOUR, JUNBLATT MAY ALSO VISIT SAUDI JRABIA, IRAQ, LIBYA, AND PERHAPS EUROPE. WN NAHARN COMMENTS PALESTINIANS MAY BE WILLING DISCUSS SETTLEMENTN WITH SARKIS WITHOUT CONUULTING WITH NM AND SAYS PLO REGARDS ITSELF AS NO LONGER AT WAR WITH WITH LEBANESE SINCE SARKIS' INAUGURATION.

4. CABINET SPECULATION. IPRIME MINISTER KARAME
SUBMITTED RESIGNATION BY LETTER TO SARKIS SEP 25.
SARKIS ACCEPTED BUT ASKED HIM UND CABINET TO STAY ON
IN CARETAKER STATUS. AT LEAST 12 NAMES SUGGESTED BY
PRESS AND EMBASSY CONTACTS AS POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS.
SPECULAZION SARKIS WILL NAME PM WITHIN THREE DAYS AND
ASK FOR CABINET FORMATION BEFORE OCTOBER 5.

5. SHEIKH PIERRE AND THE FRENCH. PIERRE GEMAYEL HAS
AGAIN CALLED FOR A FRENCH AND ARAB "STRIKE FOGCE" TO
RESTORE PEACE. HE SAID SEP 26 ARAB PEACE FORCES HAVE
FAILED AND DO NOO SEEM TM FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR
TASK. GEMAYEL SAID KAOAEB PARTY IS READY TO
PUT AT KARKIS' DISPOSAL "ALLNITS INTELLECTUAL AND
HUMAN POTENTIAL."

6. ALSPEACE FORCE. NSAUDI ARABIAN CONTINGENT OF AL
FORCES RZPORTED BEING REPLACED BY FRESH TROOPS
ENTERING LEBACON VIA SYRIA AS THREE MONTH TOURNOF
FIRST GROUP ENDS. MOURABITBUN IN MUSEUM AREA SAY
THEY HAVE "PERFECT COORDINATION" WITH AL FORCES TO
KEEP PEACE AND NOT RESPOND TO ATTACKS, SO AS NOT TO
COMPLICATE SARKIS' PEACE INITIATIVE. L'ORIENT-LE
JOUR SAYS SECURITY IN WESTERN ZONE MUSEUM AREA NOW
BEING PROVIDED BY AL FORCES AND IN EASTERN ZONE BY
REPUBLICAN GUARDS AND LEBANESE ARMY UNDER GENERAL HANNA
SAID. WE UNDERSTAND HANNA SAID'Y TROOPS NOW CONTROLLING
CHRISTIAN SIDE MUSEUM CROSSPOINT WHERE TRAVELERS STILL
TIJXED 25 LEBANESE POUNDS TO CROSSOVER.

7. ABU IYAD INTERVIEW. FATAH NO. TWO ABU IYAD SAID
IN MONDAY MORNING INTERVIEW PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWAL
FROM MOUNTAINS MUST BE MATCHED BY SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL
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TOWARD BEKAA. HE CALLED FOR AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES
ON FORCE TO FILL THE VACUUM -- WWETHER IT BE SYRIAN,
FRENCH OR AL. ABU IYAD CRITICIZED SOVIET UNION AS
"SLOW TO MOVE" AND NOT OFFERING ENOUGH ASSISTANCE AND
CALLED ON MOSCOW TO PUT MORE PRESSURE "ON SYRIA AND THE
BELLIGERENTS." HE CRITICIZED RECENT PRAVDA ARTICLE ON
PALESTINIAN "EXTREMISTS."

8. FATAH DENIAL. FATAH HAS DENIED IMPLICATION IN SEP 26
DAMASCUS SEMIRAMIS HOTEL INCIDENT INSWHICH FOUR
HOSTAGES REPORTEDLY KILLED, AND CONDEMNED OPERATIONS
AIMED AT DISRUPTING RELATIONS WITH "THE HEROIC SYRIAN
PEOPLE."

9. GROUND SITUATION. BEIRUT RELATIVELY CALM WITH LITTLE

HEAVY ARTILLERY IN USE, BUT INDISCREMINATE SHELLING
REPORTEDLY KILLED OVER 30 IN WEST BEIRUT. SNIPERS
ESPECIALLY ACTIVE ALONG DAMASCUS ROAD AND ON CENTER
CITY CONFRONTATION LINE. SEP 26 BATTLE REPORTED
BETWEEN RIGHTISTS AND MOURABITOUN IN PORT AREA. HEAVY
ARTILLERY IN USE AT GALERIE SEMAAN, CYIYAH/AIN EL-
RUMMANEH, AND OTHER SUBURBAN AREAS INCLUDING HADETH,
SAHRET SHWAYFAT, SFEIR, MAKSOUD AND REGIE. IN THE
MOUNTAINS, SPORADIC BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE ON SEVERAL
TRADITIONAL FRONTS BUT SITUATION IS STABLE. SMALL
SCALE FIGHTING AND BOMBARDMENTS REPORTED FROM TRIPOLI
AREA.

10.. IN THE SOUTH. SITUATION IN SOUTH REFLECTS
IINTENSIFIED PALESTINIAN CONCERN OVER SYRIAM/CHRISTIAN
ACTIVITY AND POSSIBILITY STRENGTHENED RIGHTIST POSITIONS
WILL LEAD HO "CORDON SANITAIRE" ALGNG ISRAELI BORDER.
RWE HAVE HEARD OF SERIES OF SMALL FIRE FIGHTS SEP 26
BETWZEN PALESTINIANS AND CHRISTIANS BOTH NORTH AND
WEST OF MARJAYOUN. TENSIMN CONTINUES AT CHRISTIAN
VILLAGE OF QLAIAA SOUTH OF MARJAYOUN AND PALESTINIAN/
LEFTISTS ARE UNDER SYRIAN PRESSURE NEAR RASHIYEH ANDN
JEZZINE. ARTILLERY EXCHANGES REPORTED AT ROUM, JAMIYE,
DAHR-RAMLE, WADI BISRI, KANAN AND AIN EL-MMIR. WE
UNDERSTAND ARAFAT WAS DISSATISFIED SARKIS DID NOT
INCLUDE SOUTHERN SITUATION ON AGENDA FOR CHTAURA
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760364-0407
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760918/aaaaapay.tel
Line Count: 203
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7650
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 25-27
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006